

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 IO-14 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01

AID-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /171 W
----- 109569

P R 181821Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5699

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK 1686

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS ANKARA 6616

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TU CY GR

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS CONFERENCE ON CYPRIOT "ATROCITIES"

1. IN CONTINUATION TURKISH REBUTTAL ON PUBLIC OPINION ASPECTS
OF CYPRUS SITUATION, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM ORHAN
BIRGIT (FM GUNES WAS NOT PRESENT)
CALLED 1830 (LOCAL TIME) AUGUST 18 PRESS CONFERENCE FOR
WHICH THERE WAS LARGE TURNOUT FROM LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS.
FOLLOWING WERE MAIN POINTS MADE:

A. BASIC PROBLEM IS GREEK VIOLATIONS OF CEASEFIRE. IT IS
TO WHAT GREEK-CYPRIOT SIDE IS DOING THAT WORLD SHOULD REACT
RATHER THAN TO TURKISH ATTEMPTS TO PROTECT "OUR BROTHERS."

B. BIRGIT LISTED SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF GREEK-CYPRIOT
"ATROCITIES:" SIX "MURDERED" TURK-CYPRIOTS IN PAPHOS, ONE OF
WHOM WAS THREE-YEAR OLD CHILD WITH "30 BULLETS" IN HIS BODY;
MORTAR FIRE FROM GREEK ZONE OF NICOSIA INTO TURKISH ZONE THROUGH-
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OUT AUGUST 16-17; DETENTION OF 150 TURK-CYPRIOT CIVILIANS IN A

LIMASSOL "PRISON CAMP" AND ANOTHER 250 TURK-CYPRIOTS IN
ANOTHER "PRISON" IN SAME AREA.

C. BIRGIT QUOTED UN "CONFIRMATION" OF PAPHOS DEATHS
IN LETTER FROM ICRC REPRESENTATIVE (MARSHALL). ACCORDING TO
BIRGIT'S READING OF LETTER, DEATH FIGURE WAS SIX. HE ADDED THAT
MANY OTHER TURK-CYPRIOTS ARE BEING HELD IN PAPHOS STADIUM.

D. TURKEY HAS COMPLIED WITH UN'S REQUEST FOR A CEASEFIRE
AND SO IT IS NOW UP TO REST OF WORLD TO BRING NECESSARY PRESSURE
TO BEAR SO "OTHER SIDE" WILL ALSO STOP FIGHTING.

E. BIRGIT WAS ASKED AT LEAST FIVE TIMES WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF
"OTHER SIDE" DOES NOT QUIT ITS "PROVOCATIONS."
GENERALLY HE SIDESTEPPED ANSWER, BUT AT ONE POINT SAID "TURKEY
WILL DO WHAT IS NECESSARY." HE, AS A FORMER JOURNALIST, THEN
ASKED THAT THE ASSEMBLED REPORTERS NOT MAKE HEADLINES OUT OF
THAT COMMENT.

F. NICOSIA AIRPORT IS SURROUNDED BY TURKISH FORCES AND
THE FACT WILL PROHIBIT "DESTRUCTIVE" ACTIONS FROM THE "OTHER SIDE."

G. BIRGIT SEVERAL TIMES NOTED THAT THERE ARE PRESENTLY SOME
30 FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ON CYPRUS AND THAT THE FOREIGN PRESS
SHOULD RELY ON WHAT FACTS THAT GROUP COULD GATHER, ALTHOUGH HE
ADDED THEY WERE PROBABLY PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING GREEK-
CYPRIOT AREAS. HE HOPED GOT WOULD BE ABLE TO FLY LARGE GROUP
OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS FROM ANKARA TO CYPRUS ON AUGUST 19.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, TREATY VIOLATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA06616
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740227-0510
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740838/aaaabgpl.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH PRESS CONFERENCE ON CYPRIOT "ATROCITIES"
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005